

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 24, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 3-9, 54-59 and 61-64. Claims 3-9, 54-59 and 61-64 are currently pending. Claims 4 and 56 have been amended. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes Applicants believe that the current rejections have been rendered moot and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Emmanuel Luk for the time and courtesy extended Applicant's Representative James M. McPherson during a telephone conference conducted on October 22, 2007. During the Interview, differences between the present invention and prior art of record were discussed. Specifically, Examiner Luk indicated that an amendment to the claims to recite that the porous mold member is porous through a thickness of the mold member to allow for venting of the gaseous reactants to a location outside of the mold assembly overcomes the current rejections. Applicants subsequently presented the attached claim amendments to Examiner Luk for consideration, wherein the Examiner indicated that the attached claim amendments appear to overcome the current rejections.

Also discussed during the Examiner's Interview, was the potential recitation of a heater within the claims. Applicants expressed concern about past objections to the use of a heater within the claims. However, Applicant then demonstrated that support for a heater with the mold assembly can be found in paragraph 20 of the present application. The Examiner agreed that recitation of a heater within the claims would be acceptable in view of the teachings within the present application.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 3-9, 54-59 and 61-64 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious based upon US Patent No. 6,164,953, to Winget, in view of US Patent No. 6,776,942, to Kim. Applicants respectfully disagree with the asserted rejection.

Notwithstanding, in the interest of expediting prosecution and in view of the Examiner Interview, Applicants have filed herewith claim amendments identical to the amendments reviewed by the Examiner, as described herein. Independent claims 4 and 56 now recites that the porous mold member is porous through a thickness of the porous mold member to allow venting of gaseous reactents generated within the mold cavity to a location outside of the mold. Applicants present that independent claims 4 and 56 are now in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 3, 5-9, 54, 55, 57-59 and 61-64, which are dependent upon either claim 4 or 56 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Oct 3, 2007



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